

In Gratitude

First, we thank Jim Elliott for his work as SIG Vice President over the past 5 years and Marie Corkery for very capably filling the final year of Jim's term. Marie did a marvelous job coordinating the educational effort at CSM under perpetually evolving and novel circumstances. We also thank Mohini Rawat for her work as Nominating Committee Chair and for bringing us a particularly robust slate of candidates for our election in November 2020.

CSM 2021

At the time of this writing, CSM 2021 was still on-going. We expected the SIG sponsored educational session pairing evidence and advocacy to attract immediate and lasting attention. That session was entitled "Advances in Imaging Referral: Generating a New Pulse in Autonomous Physical Therapist Practice" and moderated by Marie Corkery with speakers Aaron Keil, Evan Nelson, Stephen Kareha, Marcus "Kip" Schick, and Michelle Collie. Those states formulating strategies toward gaining imaging referral privileges will likely find value in this session immediately and in the future.

With the change to the virtual format, the planned 2-day pre-conference course was adapted to a 1-day post-conference course. "Next Level Clinical Reasoning: Integration of Diagnostic Ultrasound into Physical Therapy Practice" was presented by Mohini Rawat, Jon Umlauf, and Colin Rigney as an introduction to the technical aspects of diagnostic ultrasound along with the value of ultrasound in practice. At the time of this writing, the early registration for the post-conference course was very robust, reflecting the rising interest in ultrasound augmenting the clinical examination.

CSM Scholarship

For the fourth year, the Imaging SIG recognized excellence in research with awarding Brian Honick the CSM scholarship for the platform presentation for his study "Patients with Achilles Tendinopathy and Neovascularization Have Worse Tendon Structure and Function." Additional authors/investigators on the project were Haraldur Sigurdsson and Karin Grävare Silbernagel.

Please keep this scholarship in mind year-round. Encourage your colleagues and students to consider working toward this in the future. Once CSM acceptances are issued, the application process can be initiated. Details of the application process are available on the Imaging SIG webpages under "Imaging SIG Scholarship."

CSM 2022

By the time you read this, submissions for CSM programming in 2022 will be complete. Certainly, we all are hopeful to be back to the informative and personally interactive conference format we have all missed over the past year. As noted above, we originally had planned a 2-day preconference course for diagnostic ultrasound in the upper quadrant. With the change to the virtual format, the content was adapted with the plan to resubmit the 2-day course again for 2022 in San Antonio.

Our educational session for 2022 will likely focus on how to plan and conduct educational initiatives consistent with expanding imaging referral privileges. With most curricula now increasing their efforts to better educate future physical therapists, educational

programming for existing practitioners now becomes a priority for jurisdictions seeking or having just obtained imaging referral privileges. This includes not just the technical aspects of which patients should be imaged (or not) and the appropriate modality, but also the communication and individual jurisdictional aspects of imaging referral. The specific details of this are still evolving at the time of submission of this story.

The Horizon for Imaging Referral Among Jurisdictions

In a poster presentation at CSM, Leah Lawson and Molly Mathistad, 3rd year University of Kentucky DPT students reported on a survey of jurisdictional priorities in seeking imaging referral privileges for physical therapists. While approximately half of the leaders in APTA affiliated chapters responded, among those were 17 states that indicated plans to seek imaging referral privileges within the next 5 years. Data on diagnostic ultrasound imaging were also obtained with state associations being generally less knowledgeable with their methodological approach to this form of imaging. While state chapters are required to balance multiple priorities of their members, the number of states with imaging referral as parts of their strategic plans foretells major changes potentially on the horizon.

Ultrasound Reimbursement Survey

In September and October 2020, a survey of diagnostic ultrasound users within the Imaging SIG collected data on the experiences of users with success or the lack thereof in being reimbursed for ultrasound. In December and since, Imaging SIG leaders have been communicating with APTA and AOPT payment personnel in follow-up to this survey. More information about the measures evolving from this data will be forthcoming.

Infographics in Development

The Imaging SIG is in the process of developing infographics for multiple purposes, but all with the common theme of supporting imaging in physical therapist practice. The infographics will be directed at various audiences, including serving the roles to supplement advocacy for imaging referral privileges and payment. Future infographics will include support of physical therapist use of diagnostic ultrasound. Once these are developed, they will be available from the Imaging SIG webpages for download and member use.

Ultrasound Studies of Pedagogy

The Research Committee continues to do excellent work and has recently undertaken a project to identify the best pedagogical approaches for ultrasound education for physical therapists. Specifically, they are seeking to be able to find the best approaches in development, implementation, and impact of an expert-informed pedagogy for teaching physical therapists musculoskeletal diagnostic ultrasound imaging. This work is being undertaken by George Beneck, Lorna Hayward, Alycia Markowski, Maureen Watkins, Rob Manske, and Murray Maitland. This group recently obtained grant funding to assist in achieving their objectives.

Imaging SIG in PTJ

Did you happen to notice the articles in each of the January and February issues of *Physical Therapy Journal*? The article entitled “Survey of Physical Therapists’ Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behaviors Regarding Diagnostic Imaging” was written by Sean Rundell, Murray Maitland, Robert Manske, and George Beneck and appeared in the January issue. This manuscript was the direct result of a project undertaken by the Research Committee. The next month “Referral for Imaging in Physical Therapist Practice: Key Recommendations for Successful Implementation” was published as the continued effort from the educational session at CSM 2019 in Washington, DC. Authors on that project included Aaron Keil, Amma Maurer, Connie Kittleson, Daniel Watson, Brian Young, Scott Rezac, Scott Epsley, and Brian Baryani. Both articles evolved out of Imaging SIG activities to be published in our main journal of the profession and will make substantial impact.

AIUM Webinars

Our webinars, in conjunction with the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), continue with more webinars planned through 2021 and early 2022. The next scheduled webinar conducted by a physical therapist is Karin Grävare Silbernagel presenting “Optimizing Treatment of Patellar Tendon Injuries with Ultrasound Imaging” on April 28. As you may recall, Karin led another webinar in December 2019 on Achilles tendinopathy (co-sponsored with the Foot and Ankle SIG) that was very well received. Both AIUM and the Imaging SIG very much wanted an encore.

Announcements of these webinars, including the links for registration, are through email to all Imaging SIG members 4-5 weeks in advance of the date of presentation and then also promoted through the various AOPT social media platforms. One can also stay informed of these webinars along with all other AIUM programming by going to www.aium.org and searching under “Learning Center.” If ultrasound is of significant interest for you, please consider joining AIUM as a multi-disciplinary organization, supportive of physical therapists pursuing excellence in practice with the utilization of ultrasound imaging. As has been announced earlier, the resources available from AIUM and linked on the Imaging SIG web pages are consistent with the prerequisites of earning the Registered in Musculoskeletal Sonography credential as offered by Inteleos.

Imaging Education Within the SIG and Across AOPT

Brian Young is the new Imaging SIG Vice President and in that role is also the Education Chair. Watch for new educational initiatives to get underway this year in a variety of undertakings. More information on these will be forthcoming.

PAIN SIG

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Committee that I have been working with to help develop a Pain Education Manual to provide to DPT faculty to help implement the IASP guidelines. We are now at a point where we are ready for key stakeholders to review our draft. The goal is to have the final draft ready for the AOPT to brand and copyedit by April.

Pain Specialization Update: Derrick Sueki, PT, DPT, PhD, GCPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, Workgroup Chair

The pain specialization process continues to move forward. We have completed our pilot survey to determine the elements of specialty practice and it has been approved for distribution to our sample group. We hope we will have the results back by mid-March and will be able to modify the survey for general release by mid-April. When we have the results from the survey, we will have the information necessary to complete an analysis for the Specialty Board. If approved, we will prepare the Description of Specialty Practice (DSP). The DSP is the guide for what Pain Specialization entails and provides the framework for a specialty certification examination and any post-professional residency efforts. Once the DSP is completed, we will petition the Specialty Board for approval and if they approve, it will move to the House of Delegates. Our goal is to have the petition prepared and before the Board within this next year. Derrick Sueki continues to oversee this process with Marlon Wong directing the pain specialization track and Katie McBee leading the residency and fellowship efforts.

In closing...

The Pain SIG would like to thank all the AOPT office personnel and President, Joseph M Donnelly, PT, DHSc, for their continued support and guidance.

We presently have multiple opportunities for SIG involvement on the membership, public relations, and research committees. Please contact me or any other Pain SIG leader to volunteer to help our initiatives and our future.

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